

# Department of Human Services

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## Articles in Today's Clips Monday, June 18, 2007

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## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### Law expanded to save abandoned newborns

Babies may be taken to paramedics or firefighters

Monday, June 18, 2007

**BY SUSAN L. OPPAT**

**News Staff Reporter**

Newborns whose parents don't want to keep them have two new ways they can safely and anonymously surrender them without facing any legal repercussions, under a new Michigan law.

In an effort to avert abandonment of so-called "Dumpster babies," state lawmakers made it legal on Jan. 1, 2001 to take an uninjured newborn to a hospital, police station or fire station within three days of birth and leave it with emergency service providers without fear of criminal charges.

Under an amendment that took effect Jan. 1, parents of newborns may also surrender a newborn to paramedics or firefighters who respond to a 911 emergency call.

Dr. Robert Domeier, medical director of the of the Livingston and Washtenaw

Medical Control Authority and doctor at St. Joseph

Mercy Hospital emergency room, approves of the change to the law.

"It expands the safety net for these babies," he said. "It's a way for an inexperienced or naive mother who is in a state of fear to be able to surrender a child in a safe manner."

According to state records, 49 babies have been surrendered under the "safe delivery" law since 2001, two of them in Washtenaw County. In each local case, the mother delivered and surrendered the child at the hospital.

Despite the law, a child was left in a field behind an Ypsilanti Township motel earlier this year.

Born alive, the infant was wrapped in a white T-shirt, black hooded sweatshirt and some bags. His partially

decomposed body was found on March 19.

A \$6,000 reward has been posted for information on the mother, but Washtenaw Sheriff's Cmdr. Dave Egeler said investigators still have no leads. Anyone with information may call the sheriff's tip line at 734-973-7711 or Crime Stoppers at 800-773-2587.

Susan Oppat can be reached at [soppat@annarbornews.com](mailto:soppat@annarbornews.com) or at 734-482-1166.

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## KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

### Stories of sadness sometimes don't end in tragedy

Sunday, June 17, 2007

She complimented me on a recent article. Then she looked me in the eyes and said, "You don't remember me, do you?"

Certain men I know would have gone crazy if they had been asked the same question by the same woman. She was beautiful. How could I have forgotten her?

Somewhere in the back of my mind her name brushed against my memory, but I couldn't quite place her face in any frame of reference.

When she said it was a long time ago, I knew she must have been a child when I met her, because she was also young. As I sat there gazing steadfastly at her face, I decided it must have been when I covered courts, because she was reluctant to discuss our connection, whatever it was.

And as I have thought back over the few years that I spent covering Kalamazoo County Circuit Court, I have had a similar reluctance to remember those days.

Eventually, in private, she told me who she was, and yes, she'd been involved in a court case I had covered. Her case immediately came back to me, and I recalled its disturbing details without prompting. The judge in her case called it one of the worst cases of child abuse he'd seen.

She was a teenager when she took the stand in that case, but her testimony reached back several years. The jurors responded visibly during her testimony, averting their eyes, wiping away tears. There is nothing more despairing than to hear about the cruelty some feel compelled to inflict upon children.

I thought I would love covering courts. It is a place of natural drama. Colorful characters mediating the conflicts in our society, criminal and civil. Great arguments over right and wrong. I expected to feel relief or maybe even a hint of elation at the close of a big case, at seeing the system work.

But in the end, that eluded me.

After a few years of hearing cases of murder, robbery, rape, abuse and embezzlement, what settled over me was fatigue and sadness.

Court reporters bear witness to bad decisions with tragic results -- over and over. And not to absolve any criminal of his or her actions, but there was little evidence of criminal masterminds at work in Kalamazoo County. Most of those passing before the judges seemed incapable of untangling themselves from a web woven of lack of education, drugs, poverty and other social problems.

Two of the last cases I covered were tragedies, worlds colliding in the most horrific of ways. One involved a college student stabbed by a teenager who was breaking into cars, and the other concerned a social worker stabbed by a mentally ill client.

The courtrooms were pictures of pain. Row upon row of seats was filled with family members. There were the family members who wept bitterly for the loved ones who had been murdered. And, there were family members crying under the weight of their children's unthinkable crimes.

After I left the courtroom, my dreams became one dream. I would see the victim and I would see his or her assailant close by, and my mind would race at the thought of the impending tragedy. I would call out a warning to the victim -- a moment before I would open my eyes.

The attorneys, social workers and judges who do this work amaze me with their ability to keep pushing toward the ideal our justice system suggests is possible. I, however, found it impossible to surmount the loss that flowed through the courts on a daily basis, to see beyond the endless cycle of pain and violence.

Almost a dozen years after I had left the court beat, here was this woman, who once had been a little girl, beaten and belittled.

And she was smiling.

She told me about her education, life and new job, and she smiled. ``So I turned out OK. I made something of myself," she said.

``You don't remember me, do you?"

It was an unfair question; she's not the same person.

Once, she was a victim. Today, she has become a glimpse of what lies beyond the sadness.

This opinion column was written by Linda S. Mah. She can be reached at 388-8546 or [lmah@kalamazoogazette.com](mailto:lmah@kalamazoogazette.com).

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## Muskegon Chronicle

### Child's murder still haunting community

Saturday, June 16, 2007

By John S. Hausman and Corinne DeVries

Chronicle staff writers

Hundreds of volunteers scouring fields and woods for a missing little girl -- day after discouraging day.

The confessed child-killer leading investigators on fruitless, repeated road trips to a Flint-area forest.

A difficult, dogged murder prosecution with no body, ending in a surprise trial-day no-contest plea to the top charge.

Relatives and acquaintances with hearts wounded, finding little healing a decade after the fact.

And, ultimately, a legacy of increased community awareness of child abuse, including creation of an advocacy center named for the victim.

The murder-and-molestation case of Andre Bosse arguably had a bigger impact on the Muskegon-area community than any other crime in recent memory.

"The case represented every parent's nightmare," said Muskegon County Prosecutor Tony Tague. "The disappearance of Andre tore the heart out of the community."

It was 10 years ago Sunday that the 11-year-old Lakewood Club girl disappeared, launching a national manhunt for Andre and for her best friend's father -- Dean Catlin Metcalfe -- who eventually pleaded no contest to the child's abduction, rape and murder.

In 2002, nearly five years after the girl's murder, her body finally was discovered where Metcalfe had left it -- in Lapeer County, some 160 miles across the state from where she was abducted.

On the 10th anniversary of her abduction and murder, her memory remains vivid in the minds of those touched by her life and death.

'There is no closure'

Not a day goes by when Vicki Bosse doesn't think of her granddaughter, forever frozen in time as an 11-year-old. Even a decade after her murder, Bosse says she still can see her.

"You know, kinda tall for her age, long black hair and just a great big grin on her face," Bosse said.

Bosse laughed when she remembered how Andre would playfully refer to her grandparents as "old goats." She'd put her hands on her hips and say "grandma, grandma, grandma" when she was being disciplined or was disgusted with something.

Looking back, Bosse says Andre's death still is "surreal" and "unbelievable."

"People talked about closure a lot before we found Andre. There is no closure. You just go on to appreciate your life and the people in your family and the people that God sent you to get through this," Bosse said. "It's only by God's grace that we can get through this."

Almost every family occasion is hard because Andre isn't there. Each day has its difficulties, but Bosse said

Andre's death has made her a more grateful person. And, despite the sadness, she's learned to find happiness in different things. Bosse said she's glad for the Andre Bosse Center -- a child advocacy center that was started in Andre's memory.

It helps that over the years, many people have approached Bosse, asking how the family is doing, sometimes talking about Andre and their memories of her. On the night of what would have been Andre's high school graduation, there was an empty chair for her with roses on it. These are the gestures that help Bosse realize the sincerity of people and how much they still honor Andre.

"We couldn't have done what we've done and gotten through the last 10 years without the public at large and the people who cared so much," Bosse said. "People in the public have to know that we're OK and that you can get through anything in life when you have to."

"It would complete everyone if she was here. We miss her and we always will."

For Vicki Bosse, there was more pain to come after Andre's death. Her son, Matt, Andre's father, died June 12, 2005, a week after a motorcycle accident in Montague Township. Andre's mother, Linda, has since moved to California. The Chronicle's efforts to reach Linda Bosse, through the Andre Bosse Center, were unsuccessful.

#### A teacher still remembers

Andre Bosse was feisty, determined, athletic and bright. She had an infectious laugh and always wore a Chicago Bulls hat. And her teacher still remembers all this, 10 years after Andre's murder.

Linda Shinkle felt like she had lost her own child when she learned of Andre Bosse's disappearance. A fifth-grade teacher in Whitehall, Shinkle volunteered to help with the many search parties looking for Andre, but she stayed at the searchers' base and helped with food and organization.

"I couldn't go out into the woods," Shinkle recalled. "It was just something I couldn't even think about ... facing the possibility of finding her."

Since Andre's death, Shinkle said she's thought a lot more about her children's safety, especially because things like this aren't supposed to happen in a small town.

"When you live in a small town, you don't think that these kinds of things will ever touch your life," Shinkle said. "It certainly made me aware of the necessity to be so terribly careful with our kids, even out here in rural America."

#### 'A lot of sleepless nights'

Former State Police Detective Sgt. Thomas Ackley said working on the Bosse case was "one of the most daunting tasks I've ever been associated with in police work."

He said it was a highly unusual case.

There were two completely different venues -- one in Muskegon County and one in Lapeer County.

"There was so much ground that had to be searched," he said, "and there was also the feeling (Andre) could even be between those two points."

With such a large area to be searched, at times it was "just demoralizing" for investigators, he said.

"There's a lot of pressure on police officers -- especially with a crime like this," Ackley said. "A lot of hard work was put into this. There were a lot of sleepless nights."

"It took its toll physically and mentally."

Several memories about Metcalfe have stayed with Ackley, including what he called the killer's "brazenness."

"He walked into the Bosse home and took this little girl," Ackley said. "When you stop and think about it, it was a pretty high-risk action to take somebody that way."

He also recalled riding around in Lapeer County as Metcalfe was trying to show authorities where Andre's body was. "By the end of the first day, it became apparent he had no intention of taking us to that body," Ackley said. "He was a very manipulative person."

'It was a very grueling summer'

As with other law-enforcement professionals involved in the case, the Bosse murder affected Tague personally.

"Certainly in my 20-year career, it's one of only a handful of cases that stands out as one of the most challenging and heart-wrenching," the Muskegon County prosecutor said. "Whenever a child is a victim of a crime, it certainly is more difficult."

Professionally, the case also represented a challenge. Metcalfe had to be prosecuted for murder without a body, not an easy thing.

"We were one of only a few jurisdictions throughout the country that decided to proceed with the prosecution without discovery of the body," Tague said.

The early months of the case were marked by an abortive plea deal that included Metcalfe's confession and his promise to lead authorities to Andre's body -- a promise he didn't fulfill despite days of searching Lapeer County woods. Meanwhile, extensive West Michigan searches continued by hundreds of volunteers, and investigators worked painstakingly to collect forensic and other circumstantial evidence against Metcalfe.

"I remember it was a very grueling summer," Tague said. "We worked day and night in attempts not only to find Andre, but also to find sufficient evidence to prosecute Metcalfe."

Overall, "It was not only an effort of law enforcement but a variety of citizen volunteers and groups that were extremely helpful in our attempts to locate Andre's body," Tague said.

After all the tragedy, he sees some good coming from the sad case.

"Andre's legacy is one of making people realize how important each and every child is," Tague said. "I think it heightened the entire community's awareness of the devastating impact of having an innocent child be the victim."

Tague's chief assistant prosecutor, Brett Gardner, also remembers the case well.

Gardner helped organize many of the early West Michigan searches for Andre, and he rode alongside Metcalfe in the killer's failed attempts to lead authorities to her body in Lapeer County woods.

Like others involved in the case, Gardner believes Metcalfe was not sincerely trying to find Andre. "It was my opinion he was trying to manipulate us, to control the situation," Gardner said.

"Sitting next to this guy for almost two full days ... he was just eerie. He did make your skin crawl."

The case was emotionally wrenching for Gardner, whose own daughter was roughly the same age as Andre. "Especially, you can't help but be empathetic," Gardner said. "All of a sudden you think about that, and your heart goes out to this family. You just can't comprehend how devastating it could have been ... and that's what drives you."

"It just was extremely troubling when you're talking about a little girl, and you have to talk to the family," Gardner said. "You see that look in their eye. You just see this total devastation, almost of their soul, and you think, 'My God, how could somebody do this to this little girl and this family?'"

"He was an evil man. He is an evil man."

-- Chronicle staff writer Lisa Medendorp contributed to this report.

## Officials: Kids' programs cut crime



By KIM HOYUM, Journal Staff Writer

MARQUETTE — Law enforcement officials, community leaders and legislators gathered Friday at the Landmark Inn to discuss how children's programs help reduce crime, and the need for investment in those programs.

The meeting was organized by Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, an organization founded by a crime victim to advocate for funding prevention programs.

Prevention programs include after-school programs, early childhood learning and abuse and neglect prevention.

Marquette County Sheriff Mike Loveless presented information on crime statistics, saying the highest juvenile crime rate occurs right after the school day ends, and when after-school programs are available, there is a lowering of crime. He also spoke of quality pre-kindergarten learning, which has been shown to increase children's success in later life.

"We know we can effectively reduce crime when kids are in a high chair, rather than a jail cell," Loveless said.

Ishpeming Police Chief Jim Bjorne noted a similar trend in his jurisdiction. After losing some recent prevention programs due to funding cuts, Bjorne said the department saw a sharp increase in juvenile crime. He was among many attendees who asked state legislators for increased support for such programs.

Marquette County Prosecutor Gary Walker, a charter member of Fight Crime, serves as its representative on the National Leadership Council, directed further discussions on early childhood programs.

He cited a long-term study done in New York which provided home learning to children from infants to 3-year-olds and resulted in a 50 percent decrease in referrals to juvenile court over 15 years.

"If we could take a certain type of cancer and cure it 50 percent of the time, it'd be a miracle. This isn't a miracle, it's common sense," Walker said. He also spoke of a need for parental involvement in such programs.

"We've found if you simply deal with kids, it's good, but it isn't good enough," he said.

State Sen. Mike Prusi and state Rep. Steve Lindberg participated in the discussion, and expressed support for the attendees' concerns. Both also noted part of the problem is the state's financial



morass. As community leaders spoke during the meeting, many reiterated to the legislators the need for more money to support children's programs.

Prusi said the legislature was now approaching the problem of Michigan's \$1.5 billion budget shortfall, and prevention programs, like many others, were being caught in the legislature's and public's unwillingness to see taxes go up.

"They don't understand that those cuts that they're demanding that we make go directly to Jim Bjorne's police department, or Mike Loveless' office ... or Jim and Jon's school districts," Prusi said, referring to the superintendents of the Negaunee and Marquette schools, who also attended.

Lindberg agreed, and said the legislature had not been handling the budget well since the 1990s.

"If (a) business was doing what the state is doing, we'd be criminals — we'd be arrested for manipulating the books," he said, referring to recent state moves to delay payments to colleges, freeze pension fund rates and dip into future tobacco settlement money.

Both encouraged Fight Crime to take their message to other legislators. Prusi noted he is only one vote out of 148 in the state Senate, and others should hear their concerns too.

K.P. Pelleran, state director of Fight Crime, said after the meeting that they would take the advice seriously.

"We're going to take what Sen. Prusi and Rep. Lindberg said to heart, and that's to educate their colleagues below the bridge, people who may have been afraid to vote the right way," Pelleran said.

Port Huron Times Herald

June 18, 2007

**Little League mom from Port Huron:**

"Regarding the man abusing his 12-year-old child at the baseball game: I just want you to know we got your license plate number and we called the police and child-protective services. You choked your daughter, threw her on the floor and slapped her on the face -right in the middle of a Little League game. I encourage anyone who sees any sort of child abuse to call child-protective services, get a license plate or get anything because these kids can't stick up for themselves, so other people need to do it for them.

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Article published Jun 17, 2007

## Adoptions make Father's Day special for family

By Alex Lundberg  
STAFF WRITER

Today is Father's Day, a day to appreciate fathers in our lives and the role they've played. While many honor the man who married their mother, some are honoring men who became fathers by stepping forward and pulling a child out of the foster system and into their lives.

Ennis Woods of Redford is one of the latter group. Three times he and his wife, Jacque, have added to their family by bringing a child out of the foster care system and into their home.

It's all an outgrowth of his own life experiences.

"Coming from a mother and father who were married for 62 years, having 11 brothers and one sister, Jacque and I understand the importance," Woods said, "the value and the benefits of having a loving family and a stable home."

The Woods family recently adopted Endia, who was just 2 months old when she was taken from her biological family due to abuse and neglect and placed in the Judson Center in Royal Oak.

The girl had been placed in their care in 2004 as part of a foster relationship.

Right away, the Redford family worked to adopt Endia. The Woods had already adopted two other children from the center previously.

According to Judson vice president for resource development Donna Ionas, the three were among of the lucky ones.

"Everyone wants a little child, teens are harder to place," she said.

"They have more of a history of pain from poor environments."

According to the Judson Center, there are more than 18,000 children in the foster care system and only about 2,500 a year are adopted into stable families. For all of those who continue on in foster families, hundreds leave the system with no resolution every year.

"A number of the children age out of the system every year," Ionas said. "They turn 18 and they're out on their own. In 2006, 536 aged out."

The Judson Center is a Royal Oak-based non-profit service agency dedicated to helping children and families. They placed 357 children in foster homes in 2006 and put another 24 into adoptive homes. The Wayne County Regional Office is on Elmira in Redford and can be reached at (313) 794-5653, or visit [www.judsoncenter.org](http://www.judsoncenter.org).

[alundberg@hometownlife.com](mailto:alundberg@hometownlife.com)|(734) 953-2109

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PUBLISHED: Monday, June 18, 2007

## **Heavily armed suspect holds ex-wife hostage for 7 hours**

## **Daughter escapes after he bursts in with assault weapon**

By Mitch Hotts

Macomb Daily Staff Writer

A 39-year-old Utica man is due in court today to face charges that he broke into his former wife's home over the weekend and held her hostage at gunpoint for more than seven hours before surrendering to police.

The suspect, whose name was not released, had claimed to police that he lined the exterior of the home with an explosive, but once officers took him into custody they found one assault rifle and "a few hundred" rounds of ammunition.

In addition, it appears the gunman -- already suspected in two criminal sexual conduct cases -- may have sexually assaulted his 37-year-old ex-wife during the ordeal.

According to a news release issued by the Utica Police Department, the situation unfolded about 8 p.m. Saturday at a townhouse complex on Kensington in the area of M-59 and the M-53 freeway.

Witnesses told officers they saw a man armed with a long gun kick in the front door of the woman's home while she and the couple's 12-year-old daughter were inside. The daughter was able to escape the home through a back door.

The gunman threatened to kill his former wife and barricaded himself when Utica police showed up to investigate, authorities said. He claimed to have had a large amount of C4, a military plastic explosive, as a booby trap on the outside, Detective Sgt. David Faber said in the news release.

Faber said the gunman continued to terrorize the woman over the course of the night and he repeatedly called other relatives and friends telling them he planned to not only kill her but also was going to take his own life.

Utica police then evacuated several residences around where the gunman was holed up out of fear that residents could be in harm's way.

The police department received assistance from SWAT teams from Macomb County Sheriff's Office and Roseville, while officers from Shelby Township, Sterling Heights and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department's helicopter team also helped out.

After speaking off and on for almost seven hours with police on the phone, the gunman finally surrendered about 3:30 a.m. His former wife was taken to an undisclosed medical facility for treatment.

Residents who live near the scene praised the police handling of the situation. Some of the people who had been evacuated were allowed into their neighbor's homes to wait it out, said Fawn Poker, who has lived in the complex for five years.

"Nothing like this had ever happened here before," Poker said. "But the good thing was all of the neighbors were trying to help each other out. Everyone was looking out for each other, and that was good to see."

Police said the suspect will be arraigned in 41-A District Court in Shelby Township on felony charges of home invasion, kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon and several counts of criminal sexual conduct.

Port Huron Times Herald

June 18, 2007

## **Community must play a role in ending domestic violence**

I publicly commend St. Clair County Circuit Court Judge Peter Deegan. His stern sentence last week for Nicholas Kelly in the death of Holli Sharrow sent a strong message that domestic violence is a crime deserving of harsh punishment; it is a crime that will not be tolerated by our criminal justice system.

Domestic violence is a significant problem in our community. Safe Horizons provided services to more than 800 persons last year through our shelter, counseling, and advocacy programs. Our staff answered more than 2,200 crisis calls from people seeking assistance due to domestic or sexual violence. The 2005 Michigan Uniform Crime Report cited 1033 victims of domestic violence in St. Clair County.

Each year, people are murdered as a result of domestic violence in our community. It is impossible to pinpoint how a life might have been spared had some person or agency responded differently.

But this fact should not lessen the shock and outrage that prompts evaluation and action when tragedy strikes.

In rural South Africa, when someone is being sexually assaulted, there is a certain call she can make to let members of her community know she needs assistance. In Northern Ireland, sometimes a whistle or a horn is used to alert others of danger. Upon hearing the sound, those in the area respond by coming to the immediate aid of the person that sounded the alarm.

In Tanzania, urban poor women living in close quarters collectively circle a home when they hear sounds of domestic violence and bang loudly on pots and pans with metal spoons. This collective group of bystanders then gives the batterer the choice of mending his or her ways or leaving the community. A similar response has been documented in parts of Nicaragua.

Powerful collective reactions to violence such as these send a strong message - to both batterers

and victims -that violence in the home is not a private concern, and that the collective response to domestic violence will be one of intolerance and accountability. By working together and condemning domestic violence with our collective voices, we have the power to affect positive change. Those friends and family members of Holli, who spoke at last week's sentencing hearing, not only honored the memory of their loved one, but "banged their pots and pans" to remind the community that domestic violence destroys lives. By sentencing Kelly to 30 to 60 years in prison, Judge Deegan was "blowing the whistle" to alert those who batter that the consequences of hurting another will be severe.

To end this threat to our community, we can start by rejecting violence whenever we see it among our friends, co-workers and families and within ourselves. We can respect the integrity and authority of each victim over his or her own life choices. We can believe people who tell us they are being abused, support them emotionally and provide them with appropriate and accurate referrals for help.

A community working together to end domestic violence does make a difference. If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, please call the Safe Horizons 24-hour crisis line at 810-985-5538.

***Jenny Schultz is the executive director of Safe Horizons, a Port Huron-based agency that offers support s violence, sexual assault and/or homelessness.***

**STORYCHAT** 

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Comments by: **chris**

Posted: Mon Jun 18, 2007 8:46 am

I am hoping the on line readers take to heart what Jenny has said and understands fully the importance of domestic violence programs and the services they offer the community. With this agency working together with law enforcement and prosecution maybe there will not

be another tragic and preventable death such as Holli's. St. Clair County should be very proud of the reputation and services Safe Horizons has to offer all.

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Comments by: **jeeperscreepers**      Posted: Mon Jun 18, 2007 8:36 am

I agree. Those that make the false allegations and are 911 happy need to be punished also. Those that are put in the system for DV who are falsely accused have their lives ruined. The money that is involved in bailing them out of jail, court costs, lawyer fees, etc. etc. they all add up fast. Then when the person who is 911 happy, knowing that all it takes is a phone call and the police will arrest the accused, no questions asked, the cost, time and irreputable damage continues. The judges have no remorse for those that claim they are being falsely accused. That being because of the many many who in the past, called for help, then dropped the charges. Well in todays world, calling the police and having being arrested for DV is no longer in the hands of the accuser. Once in the system, the state takes over and you can kiss your butt goodbye unless you have a never ending bank account. Those that need it and really and truely are telling the truth then more power to you. But to those that abuse the system just to get someone away from them because they don't feel like being with that person anymore and want to destroy them, should be punished. I hope that the saying "what goes around comes around" is true because I know of one girl who deserves every bad thing coming her way just because she was 911 happy. A life has been completely destroyed because of the system. No job, No family life left, just a life behind bars for sometime now.....what a waste!

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Comments by: **taurus92**      Posted: Mon Jun 18, 2007 8:23 am

Why is it you only show one side? DV goes both ways. Women assaulting man. False allegations to get back at a man as well as actual assaults.

Yet we only have shelters for women, resources for women and programs for women.

I would love to see the false allegations prosecuted to the same punishment as the crime they allude to.

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Comments by: **BIGD**      Posted: Mon Jun 18, 2007 7:38 am

Domestic Violence always has been and always will be a problem. Its another of society's problems that will never have a cure just like



OUIL and Drugs.

I believe in swifter and harsher punishments for the crime and I also believe in sifter and harsher punishments for those that lie about it and get the other person arrested.

The stats used to be that for every 10 good DV cases and arrests there were 2-3 that were bogus and made up. DV advocate groups do help to a point but a lot of the people that work there also preach stuff like man hating tendencies, calling the cops even when a voice it raised and so on.

I was in the house with my now ex-sister inlaw when he DV advocate came there. All that lady did was preach call the cops every time he gets loud and the lady had the balls to tell her "even if he don't hit you tell them he hit you." Ok thats fine and dandy lady but it's also misuse and abuse of 911 for which you can be cited or charged.

Just like child abuse advocates engraining into kids heads that if they are spanked to call and report the parents for child abuse. NINE times out of TEN it's not abuse and it's nothing more then a kid not wanting to be punished for a wrong they did. TIME OUT DOESN'T WORK AT ALL, nor does calling the cops when someone gets loud or you have a arguement reporting them for DV.

There needs to be checks and ballances on both sides of the table in this issue and there isn't.

**Originally published June 18, 2007**

# PRESS & GUIDE

## Governor visits Heights to oppose Medicaid cuts

By Sean Delaney  
, Press & Guide Newspapers

DEARBORN HEIGHTS - Michigan Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm visited Dearborn Heights Monday to discuss the state's ongoing budget crisis, as well as possible cuts in Medicaid funding that would impact more than 1.4 million senior citizens statewide.

She took the time amid the negotiations to hammering out a final agreement on a new business tax package for the state starting in January. The plan was announced Thursday. See related story page 4-B.

The proposed cuts, which would include a 6 percent reduction in state Medicaid funding as well as the potential loss of more than \$122 per pupil for K-12 schools, were introduced earlier this year by the Michigan Legislature as a possible step toward resolving the state's massive budget deficit — currently estimated at more than \$900 million.

"Our economy is facing new challenges because of the auto industry — challenges that are affecting the whole state," Granholm said Monday while addressing more than a dozen local senior citizens at the Imperial Healthcare Centre, located at 26505 Powers in Dearborn Heights.

"We have to figure out ways to make sure we are able to support health care and comfortable living environments for our senior citizens and for those who need long-term care.

"As (Imperial Healthcare) knows, we're in the middle of making a huge decision regarding slashing health care — and that's something we don't want to have to do."

Granholm opposed a similar cuts on the federal level, introduced in 2005 as part of a budget resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives for the 2006-07 fiscal year. In a letter sent on March 29, 2005 to Rep. Mike Rogers — who represents Michigan's 8th District — Granholm explained her opposition to the proposed cuts.

"Approximately 85 percent of our Medicaid dollars in Michigan pay for care for senior citizens, disabled people and children," she said. "And more than 40 percent of Michigan's Medicaid expenditures are for Medicare beneficiaries. Voting for Medicaid cuts is a vote against care for some of our most fragile and less fortunate constituents."

Jonah Bruck, owner of the Imperial Healthcare Centre in Dearborn Heights, agreed.

"There's no doubt in my mind that reducing Medicaid funding now would have a tremendous impact on our senior citizens and the services we are able to provide to them," Bruck said. "This is something that would affect every

nursing home in the state — we're talking about massive layoffs here."

More than 3,000 senior living facility employees would likely lose their jobs, Bruck said, if Medicaid funding were reduced by as little as 6 percent.

According to Pat Anderson of the Health Care Association of Michigan, Medicaid currently accounts for nearly 75 percent of funding for a majority of nursing homes throughout the state, including Imperial Healthcare Centre.

"Any cuts in Medicaid funding would hurt," Anderson said. "Many facilities would be forced to reduce their staff, while others would be unable to operate at a reduced level. The change would be dramatic."

According to Bruck, the Dearborn Heights facility recently completed a the first phase of a massive multi-million dollar renovation designed to improve the quality of life for the many senior citizens who reside there.

"We've spent about \$1.3 million and we're not done yet," Bruck said, adding that Monday marked the first time the governor had visited the facility since it reopened last year following several months of renovations.

"We were honored to have the governor come here," Bruck said. "She has been the only person who really stood up for Michigan residents when these cuts were introduced, and for her to come here and meet the people that this legislation is going to affect, it really says a lot."

Dearborn Heights Mayor Dan Paletko, who also attended Monday's meeting with the governor, agreed.

"We are so pleased that we have Gov. Granholm with us, and I must say that I can't think of anyone who has fought harder for those that need the kind of care that is being provided here at the Imperial Healthcare Centre," he said. "We're very proud of this facility."

Last year, Michigan spent approximately \$7.5 billion on its Medicaid program, however, recent economic difficulties throughout the state — including an overall decline in the automotive sector — have forced local leaders to take another look at how state shared revenue is spent.

"It means we have to make some decisions about enlarging our economy and moving in other directions — all while we continue to hang onto the auto industry," Granholm said.

"That's what we're focused on — coming out of this slump, coming back up. It's going to take awhile ... but in the meantime, we can't forget about the importance of investing in our people, investing in our health care system and investing in education for our young people. We want to make sure we invest in their ability to compete in this global economy."

Contact Staff Writer Sean Delaney at (313) 359-7820 or [sdelaney@heritage.com](mailto:sdelaney@heritage.com).

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# KALAMAZOO GAZETTE

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monday, June 18, 2007

### **Bill makes rights of both parents equal**

Michigan National Organization of Women's press release in opposition to Michigan House Bill 4564 on shared parenting is full of half-truths and lies. MINOW fails to say that HB 4564 just makes the system respect the child's right to both parents equally. MINOW wants all children in custody disputes to be subject to having a parent removed from their life because a small fraction of cases involve alleged abuse. MINOW furthers gender stereotypes by claiming the typical custodial parent (the mother) does 85 percent of the child-raising while the parents are together, thus the current supermajority of custody awards going to mothers is just the divorce industry's way of maintaining the child's normal parental relationships.

The current system does not respect the actual amount of time spent by both parents in their children's lives and the only way of fixing this broken system is to require the courts to presume both parents to be equal unless there is evidence of unfitness. Finally, MINOW says there will be added court costs in requiring parents to have clear and convincing evidence of unfitness prior to the court taking a child's parent out of their life. Higher evidence standards actually reduce litigation and court time.

Darrick Scott-Farnsworth

## Ten-Year plan to end homelessness revealed

**By Jeanna Covington**

Carolina Peacemaker

GUILFORD COUNTY, N.C. (NNPA) — The Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Guilford County was unveiled June 11 in Jamestown, and according to executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, Philip Mangano, it will have a national significance. "There are many more Guilford Counties in our country than there are New York's, and San Francisco's and Chicago's," Mangano said during the unveiling presentation of the plan, referring to other areas similar to Guilford County in size, demographics and homelessness. "This plan is going to influence and be a model for other cities all across the country."

According to the Task Force, there are 300 other communities committed to tackling homelessness, including New York, Denver, San Francisco, Portland, Asheville and Raleigh. The Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Guilford County "has all of the ingredients of the plans that are making a difference in other cities," Mangano told the Carolina Peacemaker following the program. The plan is targeted toward helping chronically homeless individuals achieve stability in housing, which would decrease usage of existing resources and make resources more available to others including non-chronic homeless people.

"Our research shows that the most successful approaches in other communities focus on helping chronically homeless persons achieve stability in housing," said Task Force member Donna Newton. "This decreases their high usage of existing community resources and makes resources more available to others."

Chronically homeless is defined by the Task Force as "an unaccompanied individual with a disabling condition who has been continuously homeless for one year or more or who has had four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years."

The Task Force says most long-term chronic homeless are disabled by mental or physical illnesses or substance abuse. The two major strategic areas of the plan are housing and preventive and supportive services. Methods include supportive housing; a reentry plan that leads to stable housing for those released from prison, hospital, mental health care or foster care; enhanced mental health and substance abuse services; and job placement.

The plan also compares differences in cost for the use of community services such as emergency rooms and jails, and other criminal justice, health and mental health systems versus that of permanent supportive housing. For example, according to the 10-year plan, the typical cost per bed per night in permanent supportive housing is \$36.50, while an average cost per bed per night in jail is \$70 and \$500 in a hospital.

"The cost of doing nothing...is very expensive," said Mangano. How the various services and programs will be paid for is not outlined in the proposal. Billie Pierce, Director of the Guilford Center, announced during the program that the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services awarded the Guilford Center \$644,280 over a 26-month period.



## Lighthouse project a 'beacon of hope' for families

Of The Oakland Press

PONTIAC In his address to a group of hopeful home buyers during a recent Home Ownership Training course with Lighthouse Community Development, the Rev. James Keys said "the Lighthouse has certainly lived up to its name."

"For people who have lost hope, they can now see the light," said Keys, pastor of Monumental Faith Baptist Church, who has been working with Lighthouse for 18 years. "Lighthouse provides a beacon of hope for people who don't believe they can achieve home ownership."

Known for its Unity Park project that has brought more than 60 new homes to Pontiac's east side for low-income families, Lighthouse Community Development is continuing its tradition of providing affordable housing with two new rental developments.

The dilapidated brown, brick building at 101 Mechanic St. near Richardson Park will be transformed into Beacon Square, consisting of 28 newly constructed apartment units for low-income families. Lighthouse Community Development is also planning to construct Beacon town homes - 12 three-bedroom, two-bathroom rental properties at 449 Whittemore St. Construction on both projects is expected to begin in July.

Providing rental housing is a first for Lighthouse Community Development. Program director Joe Heaphy said he views the new apartments as "home ownership incubators" for residents who may want to purchase a house in the near future.

"We provide home buyer programs," he said. "So the people who rent from us will have the opportunity to take part in those programs, and when they have the potential to become home owners, they'll be ready."

Heaphy said the goal of Lighthouse Community Development is to provide safe, decent, affordable housing and improve local neighborhoods.

"Especially with the case of 101 Mechanic - it serves our mission completely because we're cleaning up a blighted property and making it an asset to the community," he said.

The property at 101 Mechanic St. currently has 50 efficiency units with a bedroom, bathroom and small kitchen area. The building will be rehabilitated into 25 one-bedroom and three, two-bedroom apartments. Two of the units will be barrier-free and accessible to individuals with mobility impairments.

Two of the units at Beacon town homes will also be barrier-free with two-car garages instead of basements. The remaining 10 units will have one car garages and full basements. The construction of both projects - Beacon Square and Beacon town homes - is expected to be complete in one year and open to renters in August 2008.

Funding for the \$2.3 million reconstruction of 101 Mechanic and the \$2 million Beacon town homes development comes from federal tax credits allocated through the state, Heaphy said. The rental rates will be based on income guidelines ranging from \$180-\$600 per month for the apartments and \$330-\$750 for the town homes. To qualify, a family of four can earn up to \$41,900 per year; family of three, \$37,750; and a family of two, \$33,550.

"Lighthouse is really raising the standards and hopes for the people of this community," Keys said. "I'm really impressed. In spite of people saying Pontiac is dying, these projects alone say we're still alive and well. And things are only getting better."

Contact Kaniqua Daniel Smothers at (248) 745-4714 or [kaniqua.daniel@oakpress.com](mailto:kaniqua.daniel@oakpress.com).

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## Link between premature births, poverty is clear

By Jane Zehnder-Merrell

Equal opportunity is a basic ideal of the American dream, and the circumstances under which a child is born shape those chances. In Michigan in 2005 roughly 13,500 infants were born too soon, at less than 37 weeks gestation. Research shows these babies are at much higher risk for lifelong health problems, including cerebral palsy, mental retardation, chronic lung disease, blindness and hearing loss. Furthermore, three of four infant deaths in the U.S. are linked to prematurity.

While several risk factors — including smoking during pregnancy or having a baby as a teenager — have been identified, the socioeconomic status of parents also plays a key role. For most mothers and their babies, a premature delivery is not a matter of choice but rather a consequence of these circumstances.

The sad fact is that infants born to mothers in Michigan communities with high concentrations of poverty were 47 percent more likely to be born too soon as those in the state's most affluent communities, according to Right Start in Michigan, produced by the Michigan League for Human Services.

Similarly, significant racial disparities exist from the outset of life. In Michigan, roughly 16 percent of African-American infants are born preterm compared to 9 percent of white infants. And an African-American infant in Michigan faces triple the risk of death.

The ideal of protecting every pregnancy through preventative measures that ensure a healthy birth for all children has been compromised by the steady erosion in state funding for maternal and infant health programs, which have lost almost 80 percent of their general fund dollars since 2002. Moreover, many other programs, such as emergency services and the child care subsidy, designed to reduce economic hardship have been severely cut or compromised by benefit reductions or eligibility restrictions.

Failure to alleviate poverty and ensure preventive measures for preterm births has enormous costs beyond the emotional and financial toll on families. The average cost for a hospital stay for a premie is \$70,000, and direct health costs to an employer for a preterm infant during the first year of life are about 15 times those for a healthy full-term infant - \$42,000 compared to \$3,000.

At the Capitol, policy-makers continue to talk about cuts to programs that address the health and economic needs of poor and low-income families as the solution to the budget deficit. Yet in the shadow of the Capitol, Lansing had the third-highest rate (13.6 percent of all live births) of preterm births in 2005 among Michigan's 70 communities with population over 25,000. Between 1995 and 2005, the risk of preterm birth for city mothers and infants increased by roughly 25 percent.

Children born today in Michigan are the workforce of tomorrow. Michigan taxpayers and policymakers need to ensure that they have a healthy start so they can achieve the skills and capacities needed to contribute to Michigan's future.

*Jane Zehnder-Merrell is a senior research associate for the Michigan League of Human Services and project director for Kids Count in Michigan.*



# Ohio hires computer security expert to review chance stolen identity data could be used

MATT REED

*Associated Press Writer*

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The state has hired a computer security expert to determine the likelihood of someone getting access to the data on a stolen backup storage device, Gov. Ted Strickland said Sunday.

Matthew Curtin, the 34-year-old founder of Interhack Corp., will begin Monday reviewing what's already known is on the device, whose theft was revealed on Friday.

Also on Sunday, Strickland said the device contained the names and case numbers of the state's 84,000 welfare recipients, who face "a remote threat of identity theft," and the names and federal tax identification number of vendors that receive payroll deduction payments from the state — about 1,200 records. Sixteen of those records contain banking information, he said.

Previously, it was revealed the device contained the names and Social Security numbers of all 64,000 state employees, as well as information about 53,797 people enrolled in the state's pharmacy benefits management program and the names and Social Security numbers of about 75,532 dependents.

Strickland again said that he has no reason to believe the information has been compromised because getting it requires special equipment and expertise.

The device was reported stolen along with a \$200 radar detector out of the car of a 22-year-old intern with the state's Office of Management and Budget. The governor has issued an executive order to change the procedures for handling state data.

Strickland and Curtin said the analysis of what's on the device should be finished on Monday.

The State Highway Patrol also announced Sunday that a post office box had been established in Columbus in hopes that the storage device would be returned anonymously.

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Associated Press Writer John McCarthy contributed to this report

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On the Net:

<http://web.interhack.com>

06/17/2007

# Confession on videotape

## *Ex-janitor admits stealing property; deal is defended*

BY PATRICK SULLIVAN

[psullivan@record-eagle.com](mailto:psullivan@record-eagle.com)

BEULAH — Former Benzie County janitor Don Zaleski's videotaped interview with police shows him admitting to stealing county property, possessing cocaine and drug paraphernalia and to using a county-issued cell phone to take a pornographic photo.

But a week after police learned those details in a November 2006 interview, county Administrator Chuck Clarke convinced Zaleski to sign a resignation agreement that secured Zaleski's government benefits and a neutral reference in case a future employer called for information.

"It's the easiest way to do it," Clarke said. "We knew that the criminal side would take its course."

Clarke defended the terms of Zaleski's departure and said such agreements are typical, even under bad circumstances.

Zaleski, who with another county janitor stocked a county maintenance shed with a tanning bed, drug paraphernalia and pornography, died in December in a single-car crash near Frankfort that authorities blamed on speed and alcohol.

Clarke said when he negotiated the resignation agreement he believed Zaleski would do jail time for possession of cocaine and that a conviction would be on his record. He said he wouldn't have been able to strip Zaleski of his retirement benefits and accrued sick and vacation time, even if Zaleski had been fired.

"We gave him the opportunity to resign, which you do, and if he would have said no, I would have fired him that minute," Clarke said.

### See related stories

- Videotape set to be released - June 8, 2007
- [Drug pipes, Playboys found with tanning bed in maintenance building](#) - April 27, 2007
- [Tan janitor keeps job](#) - April 1, 2007

### See related editorial

- [In Benzie County, employee perks go beyond the doughnuts](#) - April 16, 2007

Clarke said county commissioners knew about the agreement with Zaleski. Board Chairman Mark Roper did not return a message seeking comment.

Benzie County sheriff's deputies recorded the Zaleski interview, which was turned over to the Record-Eagle and county resident Eric VanDussen following requests under the state Freedom of Information Act.

An attorney for Zaleski's alleged criminal cohort, Elaine Saffron, a suspended state Department of Human Services worker, and Manistee County's prosecutor objected to the video's release, but missed a deadline imposed by Benzie sheriff's officials.

Saffron faces trial July 19 for the alleged theft of a computer from the county building.

Manistee Prosecutor Ford Stone is handling the prosecution and told the sheriff's department not to turn over the Zaleski tape, a demand the department initially followed.

After VanDussen and the Record-Eagle appealed that decision, Sheriff Robert Blank said he determined there was nothing on the recording that would jeopardize Saffron's right to a fair trial. He said he would turn over the interview June 8 unless Stone or defense attorney James Hunt took action to stop him.

Blank's undersheriff, Rory Heckman, released a DVD recording of the interview that morning. But in the afternoon, Stone and Hunt filed a stipulation for a protective order to seal the interview "because the tape contains statements by Don Zaleski which implicate Saffron in the commission of crimes."

Stone did not return a message seeking comment.

On the recording, Zaleski says little that hasn't already been disclosed by officials about Saffron's alleged thefts from Benzie County, thefts which Saffron denied and blamed on her estranged husband.

Meanwhile, Hunt filed a motion to have Saffron's misdemeanor theft case heard in another county because of pre-trial publicity that linked her to Zaleski.

Hunt argued in the motion that the Record-Eagle published allegations made by Saffron's estranged husband, Bradley Saffron, and that the Saffrons are well-known in the county.

"The publicity makes the selection of a fair and impartial jury even more difficult," Hunt wrote.

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